

Horticulture 2018

72nd Lake Chelan Horticulture Day

January 15, 2018

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Lake Chelan Horticultural Day reemerges for 72nd year in Chelan

By ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – Chelan Future Farmers of America (FFA) and WSU Extension will be co-sponsoring the 72nd annual Lake Chelan Horticultural Day, Monday, Jan. 15 beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. and presentations commencing the day's activities beginning at 9 a.m. at Chelan High School. Chelan FFA will be hosting the annual Trade Show with nine various vendors in attendance, along with a "Sloppy Joe" lunch and PowerPoint presentation on events that have taken place this year.

Throughout the day, there will be eight different presentations provided by specialists in varying fields of expertise.

Starting off the agenda items will be an educational presentation by Tianna DuPont of WSU Extension at 9 a.m. DuPont's presentation will focus on the management of Fire Blight in Season in Young Trees and prevention of infection. Following the Fire Blight presentation at 9:30 a.m. will be an update on one of the newest apple varieties, the WA38 "cosmic crisp". Presenters Kevin Brandt and Kathryn Grandy of PVM will discuss and explain marketing plans, grading standards, grafting and planting of the hybrid apple with parentage from the Honeycrisp and Red Delicious. Following a brief break, Stefano Musacchi, with WSU Horticulture, will

provide a horticultural update for the WA38 at 10:20, immediately followed by a Question & Answer session on the topic. Just before a lunch break, WSU Entomologist Robert Orpet will conduct a presentation of the Woolly Apple Aphid. Lunch break will take place from noon until 1 p.m. with "Sloppy Joes" and an opportunity to meet with some of the FFA officers, members and the newest advisors to Chelan FFA, Breaune Hanson and Randy Gleasman.

Resuming the presentation agenda at 1 p.m. are WSU Entomologists Adrian Marshall and Betsy Beers discussing management of the Native Stink Bug, followed by a presentation on the identification of common weeds in Washington by Lynn Sosnoskie, with WSU Weed Science at 1:30 p.m. Concluding the day's presentations will be Gwen Hoheisel with WSU Extension on the reduction of spray drift and improving spray efficacy at 2:00 p.m. and Molly Darr and Elizabeth Beers with WSU Entomology on Spotted Wing Drosophila Management Recommendations at 2:30 p.m.

The event is open to the public, especially those interested or specializing in the tree fruit industry with any proceeds going toward academic scholarships, loans, grants and support for student activities.

Jan. 15
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Chelan High School
215 Webster Avenue

Vendors will set up shop as part of this year's trade show

See full agenda on page B2



Photo by Erin Rossell

Don and Ruth Van Wechel's blueberry farm in Manson. A 'berry' successful shot in the dark

Thinking outside the crops

By ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

MANSON – Blueberries in the Chelan Valley? While the preconceived notion for fruit production is all vineyards and apples, blueberries are surely earning their place among the other prized fruits produced in valley.

Don Van Wechel and his wife, Ruth, began brainstorming ideas nearly 20 years ago. Starting as a field man for local apple orchards, Van Wechel realized the downward pressure on profits being seen throughout apples

produced in the valley, namely the Red Delicious variety. "We started thinking," he explained, "what could we provide using the same type of equipment and techniques as apple farming?" A few short years later, the Van Wechels stumbled into the prospect of blueberries. Start-up costs for

"It's really easy to drop the acid level in the soil, our water (from the lake) has no buffering system."

-Don Van Wechel

blueberries was quite a bit cheaper than what it takes for apple farming Van Wechel explained. "Looking around it was really easy to find some plants here and there," he said. They began by planting a few blueberry bushes in the garden to

SEE BLUEBERRIES ON PAGE B2



LCM File Photo

WSU Extension Regional Specialist, Tianna DuPont, speaks with a fellow attendee in the lunch line at the 71st annual Horticulture Day at Chelan High School in 2017. DuPont delivered a lecture on North Central Washington soil quality during the one-day event.

Airstrike falcons target bird pests' hard-wired fear of raptors



Photo by Mike Maltais

Airstrike Bird Control President and CEO Brad Felger brought some of his falcons to the Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival in Pateros last September.

By MIKE MALTAIS, STAFF WRITER

PATEROS – Last September, Brad Felger, brought falcons from his Skagit Valley home to the Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival to acquaint raptor lovers with an aspect of falconry with which few are familiar.

Felger, owner of Airstrike Bird Control, Inc. headquartered in Atascadero, Calif., is reintroducing a natural dynamic that is older than

the practice of agriculture itself: the predator-prey relationship. Felger employs various species of falcons to discourage bird pests such as starlings from preying on fruit crops.

Airstrike works with agriculturalists throughout Washington State and the western U.S. who raise everything from cherries to wine grapes. Felger's team of falconers use the birds to harass and haze pest birds that present a constant challenge to ripening fruit crops.

A cherry orchardist in Wenatchee who recently tried Airstrike expressed both surprise and satisfaction over the effectiveness of falcons to address his bird pest problem, Felger said.

Airstrike was founded in 2002 and employs about 25 falconers in capacities both as independent contractors with their own abatement permits or as sub-permittees under Felger's permit. Many have their own falcons while some use Airstrike birds.

SEE RAPTORS ON PAGE B2

72nd Annual Lake Chelan Horticultural Meeting January 15, 2017 Chelan High School

Co-sponsored by: WSU Extension and
Chelan High School FFA

- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration, Announcements, FFA Introduction
- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Fire Blight: Preventing Infection, Managing Fire Blight in Season in Young Trees* Tianna DuPont, WSU Extension.
- 9:30 – 9:55 a.m. WA38 updates Kevin Brandt, Kathryn Grandy, PVM. Marketing plans, grade standard, grafting and planting info.
- 10:00 – 10:20 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:20-10:50 a.m. WA38 Horticulture Update Stefano Musacchi, WSU Horticulture
- 10:50-11:15 a.m. WA 38 Questions and Answers
- 11:15 -11:45 a.m. Woolly Apple Aphid* Robert Orpet, WSU Entomology, TFREC
- Noon-1 p.m. Lunch – Support Chelan FFA – Join us for Lunch!
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. Native Stink Bug Management* Adrian Marshall, Elizabeth Beers WSU Entomology
- 1:30-2:00 p.m. Identifying Common Weeds in WA* Lynn Sosnoskie, WSU Weed Science
- 2:00-2:30 p.m. Reducing Spray Drift and Improving Spray Efficacy* Gwen Hoheisel, WSU Extension
- 2:30-3:00 p.m. Spotted Wing Drosophila Management Recommendations* Molly Darr, Elizabeth Beers, WSU Entomology
- 3:00 p.m. Pesticide Credits and Closing

Agendas are draft and time are subject to change.

2 to 3 pesticide education credits will be awarded for program attendance based on WSDA approval.

Extension programs and employment are available without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

If you are interested in joining the trade show contact: Breanne Hanson hansonb@chelanschools.org (509) 860-1950. Proceeds benefit the Future Farmers of America Scholarship.

BLUEBERRIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

determine how well the fruit would grow, and not long after, planted a few more of different varieties.

Blueberries are not very common in this area due to the fruit preferring a cooler climate and acidic soil to grow Van Wechel explained. But, in Chelan “it’s really easy to drop the acid level in the soil,” he stated, “our water (from the lake) has no buffering system.” With a simple switch from the calcium nitrate used in apple and pear orchards to ammonium nitrate for the berries, the Van Wechels have been successful in the quality of berries produced. Switching over was easy to do, he explained, “and the cost per acre investment was better than apples.” Along with the simple conversion process, the need for other pear and apple production tools are also non-existent. Trellises and ladders, for example, are unnecessary in the production of blueberries, he added, although, you could use “very short ladders,” he joked.

As they began testing various crops for not only appearance, but taste also, “I knew I didn’t want to make the same mistake the apple industry made,” Van Wechel said referring to the Red Delicious apple variety commonly found in the valley. They’ve settled on two varieties so far, one a mid-season bloomer, harvesting early to mid-July and the other a late-season blooming variety, ready for harvest late July to early August. We’re still trying to find an early-season bloomer Van Wechel explained. “You can compete on volume or quality,” he



LCM File Photo

The Van Wechel’s have settled on two varieties so far for their farm, one a mid-season bloomer, harvesting early to mid-July and the other a late-season blooming variety, ready for harvest late July to early August.

explained, “quality has always been this area. We need to get back to our roots.” The same applies to blueberries, he explained, “other areas will have to continually acidify the soil, here we don’t have to,” he stated, adding, “even though blueberries generally do better with the cooler weather from the coast, things just generally do better with sunshine.”

While one of the qualities sought out for blueberries is the suitability for mechanical harvesting, Van Wechel doesn’t take part in the machinery for harvesting,

he said. He prefers the personable method of utilizing labor crews, “this is what I’d like to see,” he explained, “I’d like to see the guys come out in the morning for thinning, then have them come back later with their families and pick.” He explained that he encourages the kids to eat the blueberries from a plant before the parents harvest it, “they’re like my little quality control,” he laughed, “if it didn’t taste good then I’d tell them to tell mom and dad to skip that plant.” As of right now, harvesting doesn’t happen

until the product is ordered, leaving berries intact longer allowing for maximum freshness. “We’re not very big right now,” Van Wechel stated, “only about three acres and we market locally ourselves.”

The mom-and-pop business didn’t start expanding their crop until around 2007, when they made the commitment and pulled up their pear trees to replace with the berries. The business started by word of mouth, and “started with 10-pound orders, then the next year it was 20 pounds, then 50 pounds, I just couldn’t grow my berries fast enough,” he joked. “Everything pretty much stays here in the valley and we deliver,” he added, “so if you order you’re going to see either me or my wife.”

If you’re interested in ordering next season’s crops, call Don or Ruth at (509) 687-3981.

“... even though blueberries generally do better with the cooler weather from the coast, things just generally do better with sunshine.”

-Don Van Wechel

Loans available to farmers from FSA

SUBMITTED BY
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

WENATCHEE - Farm Service Agency (FSA) strives to be the lender of first opportunity and is proud to help the hard-working farmers who are struggling with the current market conditions and

potential low commodity prices.

Direct loans are a resource for farmers to obtain the credit they need to build and sustain family farms and ranches.

Direct farm loans are made by FSA. FSA also services these loans and works with the direct loan borrowers so they have a better chance for success. Farm ownership, operating,

emergency, and youth loans are the main types of loans available under the direct program. Loan funds may be used for annual operating expenses, such as feed, fertilizer, chemical, labor expenses, and other annual farm expenses. Non-real estate farm debt may be refinanced. Loans may also be taken out to purchase livestock and equipment. Farm ownership

loans not only can be used to acquire, purchase or enlarge your farm, but also for capital improvements. These improvements may include building necessary buildings, facilities, and/or renovating your farming operation, such as replanting a portion of your orchard.

All applicant’s will be required to meet all qualifications, which some include the inability to get credit elsewhere, farm management experience, good credit history, ability to repay the loan, and adequate collateral.

Farmers interested in applying for a direct operating or farm ownership loan should contact their local FSA office. Funds may be limited this year, so we encourage you to call soon.

For more information about these and other types of loans, visit the FSA’s home page at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on “Farm Loan Programs”, then click on the type of loan program you are interested in.

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USDA offers targeted farm loan funding for underserved groups and beginning farmers



Submitted photo

In order to qualify as a beginning farmer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans.

SUBMITTED BY
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Wenatchee – USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Senior Farm Loan Officer Jose Limon, reminds producers that FSA offers specially-targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

"Each year, a portion of FSA's loan funds are set aside to lend to targeted underserved and beginning farmers and ranchers," said Limon. "Farming and ranching is a capital intensive business and FSA is committed to helping producers start and maintain their agricultural operations."

During fiscal year 2017 (Oct. 1, 2016 through Sept. 30, 2017), Washington FSA obligated \$36,534,154 in loans to underserved borrowers and beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

In order to qualify as a beginning farmer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members

must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation. For farm ownership purposes, the applicant must not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county at the time of application. All direct farm ownership applicants must have participated in the business operations of a farm for at least three years out of the last 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage and all entity members must be eligible beginning farmers.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program offers two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans.

Farm ownership loan funds may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, purchase easements or rights of way needed in the farm's operation, build or improve buildings such as a dwelling or barn, promote

soil and water conservation and development and pay closing costs.

Farm operating loan funds may be used to purchase livestock, poultry, farm equipment, fertilizer, and other materials necessary to operate a successful farm. Operating loan funds can also be used for family living expenses, refinancing debts under certain conditions, paying salaries for hired farm laborers, installing or improving water systems for home, livestock, or irrigation use and other similar improvements.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from one to seven years. Financing for direct farm ownership loans cannot exceed 40 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Guaranteed loan terms and interest rates are set by the lender.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, please contact your local FSA Office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

RAPTORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

"Nobody does this without a falconer's license," said Felger, who holds a Master Falconer designation and has been involved with the raptors for 47 years.

Falconry in Washington State is licensed and enforced by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife which mandates several requirements to achieve the rank of Apprentice Falconer. Among those requirements are apprenticing with a General or Master Falconer, passing the falconry written exam with an 80 percent or higher score and passing a falcon housing (mews) inspection.

The field of bird abatement with falcons involves a wide variety of practices that depend upon the type of crop grown, species of bird(s) targeted, topographical factors, coverage area, and extent of canopy cover, to name a few.

An expanse of fruit trees, for example, offers more opportunities for bird pests to find cover from falcons than a more open vineyard does.

Felger's company also uses a variety of falcon species that come with their own brand of effectiveness depending upon what type of pest bird needs abatement and the kind of vegetation and terrain being considered.

"Each type of bird offers a specialty," said Felger. "We make a decision when we fly our birds based on the unique characteristics of each site; it's kind of like having a tool box."

Felger pointed out that the goal of his service involves driving pest birds away as opposed to lethal measures.

"Our objective is to haze the birds, not kill them," said Felger.



Photo by Mike Maltais

An expanse of fruit trees offers more opportunities for bird pests to find cover from falcons than a more open vineyard does.

Felger said that while Starlings are the number one pest bird for all crops, birds in general seem to have a well-developed taste for the most valuable of fruit species. Blueberries are a favorite and certain varieties of apples such as Honeycrisp attract more than their share of bird bites.

For viticulture, Felger said one advantage of natural bird abatement is helping vineyards

get their sustainability certification which informs consumers interested in the environmental benefits of sustainable production.

Airstrike Bird Control, Inc. has sponsored a vendor booth at past Lake Chelan Horticultural Day presentations. Felger can be reached at bfelger@airstrikebirdcontrolyusa.com or by calling (805) 391-0444 or (360) 982-1401.



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Apple crops in Chelan Valley just shy of record-breaking



Photo by Erin Rossell

The bulk of the apples left on trees were of the Red Delicious variety, Washington State's most acclaimed variety of the fruit.

King of Apples future at stake?

By ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

CHELAN - The apple production nearly reached an all-time high for the 2017 season with an estimated crop at 142.3 million 40-pound boxes, according to reports through Washington State Tree Fruit Association. The yielded amount surpassed the Aug. 1 forecasted crop by a hefty 8.7 percent, placing it effectively as the second highest crop, just below the 143.6 million boxes produced in 2014.

The greater supply, however, creates a smaller profit margin for orchardists, explained retired WSU agricultural economist Desmond O'Rourke in an article on Washington Farm Bureau. The surplus supply generates a "marginal downward pressure on prices," he stated, resulting in less profit per pound. Light fruit productions overseas for the season, however, are anticipated to help with expanding profits as exports to these areas are projected

to increase with the higher demand for Washington apples.

The abundant supply of Chelan Valley's treasured fruit wasn't the only anomalous feature for the season. The warmer temperatures lasted well into the fall season allowing harvesting to continue through the end of November, and, largely due to a lack of pickers, resulted in marketable apples left hanging on several rows within various local orchards. The bulk of the apples left on trees were of the Red Delicious variety, Washington State's most acclaimed variety of the fruit. The Red Delicious, historically perceived as the "king of apples," is nearing the end of its reign as sweeter varieties, such as the Ambrosia and Honeycrisp, are becoming increasingly popular among consumers and absorbing the demand once seen for the reds.

As of early December 2017, as reported from a USDA price tracking report, extra fancy (standard) Red Delicious sold for \$14 to \$17 for medium sized 80 and 88 apples per box. The price has been stable through October and

November while remaining one of the lowest cost varieties available according to an article written by Dan Wheat, titled "Washington apple crop estimate nears record," on Washington Farm Bureau. On major varieties, a price of \$17 to \$18 is almost required to break even for Washington growers, the article explained. Red Delicious averages at \$15.50 per box, less than the break-even amount, while varieties such as the Honeycrisp are selling at an average of \$48 per box on premium sized 80s and 88s.

The vary narrow profit margin on reds makes for an easy answer as to why that variety was left hanging, but also raises the question as to what the future holds for the "king of apples."

Who would've thought?

- There are more than 7,500 known apple varieties grown around the world, eight of which are primary varieties grown right here in Washington.

- 10 - 12 billion apples are harvested in Washington State each year.

- Each Washington apple is picked by hand. There are no harvest machines to pick

apples.

- If you put all the Washington State apples picked in a year side-by-side, they would circle the earth 29 times.

- Apples originated in Kazakhstan and were carried east by traders on the Silk Road.

- The only apple native to North America is the crabapple.

- Apple seeds are like people; you will never get the exact same type of apple from a planted seed.

- Eating one large apple provides 20 percent of the recommended daily value of dietary fiber, 8 percent of the antioxidant Vitamin C, and 7 percent of your day's potassium, all for only 130 calories... with no fat, no sodium, and no cholesterol!

These fun facts and more were located on Washington Apples at www.bestapples.com.

Sources: Dan Wheat, Capital Press, "Washington apple crop estimate nears record," web, Dec. 13, 17. <http://wsfb.com/washington-apple-crop-estimate-nears-record/>



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Wilbur-Ellis faces challenges

By MIKAILA WILKERSON, STAFF WRITER

CASHMERE - Wilbur-Ellis Co., an Agricultural Product Wholesaler that works to provide valuable resources to help customers reduce loss, grow smart and increase productivity, has had a location at 404 Mission Avenue in Cashmere for many years and has faced some tough challenges this last year.

According to Kevin Kenoyer, a Wilbur-Ellis fieldman, their production and quality in 2017 were down due to weather conditions.

"We're fighting a lot of pest pressure as well," Kenoyer added.

Wilbur-Ellis had to deal with Pear psylla, which is one of the most serious insect pests of pears.

Cork, which is a physiological disorder in pears that occurs when pears are not at their best quality,



Photo by Mikaila Wilkerson

Wilbur-Ellis Co., located at 404 Mission Avenue, has dealt with pest pressure and weather conditions affecting production last year.

is another big challenge that workers at Wilbur-Ellis have had to face due to weather conditions.

How this year's production and quality will be affected will also be dependent on the

weather and pest pressure Kenoyer said.

Another concern that the business faces is labor issues and finding enough workers for everything to go more smoothly.

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Women in Agriculture mentors a growing group of feminine farmers



Graphics courtesy of Margaret A. Viebrock

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

WATERVILLE – More than a decade ago, Margaret Viebrock, Director of the WSU Extension County Director for Chelan and Douglas counties, had an idea: create an avenue for women involved in agriculture to interact and share knowledge, resources, and opportunities with like-minded peers in their field of endeavor.

The seed Viebrock planted in 2005 that began with a small meeting in Wenatchee's Eastmont High School has today sprouted into a multi-state program with dozens of outreach locations where women gather to participate in video conferences.

Prior to 2005 Viebrock was involved in a three-state effort dealing with risk management education for farm families that included risk-related topics such as finances, insurance, legal issues and more.

"During these workshops I noticed only a small number of women who were involved," said Viebrock. "They learn differently from men."

Women were not comfortable in the traditional male-dominated meetings typical of the time, so it was determined that a change in the dynamic was needed.

"Together with a couple of colleagues we decided to develop a program for women in agriculture," Viebrock said.

Under the banner of Women, Farms and Food, Women in Agriculture was born, and each year holds an annual conference that focuses on a different theme. Last November's gathering in Nespelem entitled "We Can Do It" addressed topics related to leadership on the farm and in the community.

The 2015 conference "Put Your Best Boot Forward" focused on the marketing aspects of agriculture and drew more than 650 participants.

Last fall's conference, themed "Power Up Your Communication Style, Power Up Your Farm" attracted more than 600 women who participated by video link from some 40 locations in five states, said WSU's Colville



Reservation Extension Director, Linda McLean. Women in Ag has also adjusted its format based on client feedback to accommodate more participation.

"We moved the meeting from March to November to allow more women to participate at a less busy time of the year," said McLean.

In 2009 women involved in the annual conference said they could not leave their operations for extended periods and requested meeting sites closer to their homes. Accordingly, in 2010 the conference was delivered at four locations in the state. To further accommodate participation, webinar technology has been enlisted for the past six years to bring the program to a wider audience. Now, women in five states – Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska – spanning three time zones network simultaneously and this year, Wyoming and Nevada plan to link up.

During and after each conference the Women in Ag project follows the progress of participants through comprehensive surveys and outreach to determine how women are applying the information and techniques they learned in

USDA statistics reveal that more than a third of Washington State farmers are women responsible for more than 4.75 million acres and generating a nearly quarter-



Margaret Viebrock, Director WSU Extension Chelan and Douglas Counties in Waterville, founded the Women in Agriculture program in 2005.

billion-dollar economic impact. The good news is that the current trend indicates that influence is growing with more younger women entering the agriculture field than older women are leaving it.

Viebrock acquired her undergraduate degree in Family and Consumers Sciences and Education from North Dakota State University and her masters in Adult Education and Nutrition from Central Washington University.

To learn more, check out the website www.womeninag.wsu.edu or contact Margaret A. Viebrock, Director WSU Extension Chelan and Douglas Counties, Courthouse Box 550, Waterville, WA 98858, (509) 745-8531 or email viebrock@wsu.edu.

City officials struggle with apple maggot quarantine

By IAN DUNN, STAFF WRITER

In June (of 2017), Leavenworth city officials were made aware of the city was part of an Apple Maggot Quarantine Area. The Washington State Department of Agriculture restricts the removal of brush and solid waste from the quarantine area, which is the greater portion of the city limits.

Dumping outside the quarantine area or at the Dryden Transfer Station was in violation of the ban. On June 14, City Administrator Joel Walinski and Public Works Director Herb Amick met with the DOA to discuss the possibility of getting a permit so the city could continue dumping solid waste at Dryden.

"In order to continue our garbage dumping at Dryden, we had to agree to several points. One was to continue our spring and fall yard cleanup program. Continue having the recycle center collecting brush. We have to dispose of that brush within the quarantine area. Do education to try to keep the green waste out of the garbage," Amick said, at the Aug. 8 study session.

Councilman Elmer Larsen asked if the city could burn the brush from inside the city.

For the Department of Ag., that is the preferred method, Amick said, but not for the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Amick said they were looking for some direction from the council.

"We have some options. The county opened their pit. We can take it there. The big question, we're not sure they'll take our bags. We can rent their chipper at \$600 an hour. We can petition to get a special burning permit," Amick said.

Larsen suggested the city buy its own chipper. Mayor Cheri Kelley Farivar said a new chipper costs around \$100,000.

"I think our path forward is we put in a request to get a burn permit from the DOE, which opens the door to them providing some type of

funding for a chipper. One of the problems they have with the county, in terms of their chipper, they do allow people to come in and dump without inspecting.

At least in our unit, we can see what goes in," Walinski said.

The chips will have to stay within the quarantine area, Amick said.

As of July 31, the city was forced to cease hauling brush and green waste to Stemilt. As of Aug. 1, the city public works crew began preparing a site in the open space located at the cemetery for the stockpiling of yard waste to be chipped or burnt.

Ian Dunn can be reached at 548-5286 or editor@leavenworthecho.com.

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Photo courtesy Laudan Espinoza, Washington State West Mathison of Stemilt Growers and agriculture students attending the WSTFA luncheon pose with Sen. Brad Hawkins (center).

Hawkins recognized as agricultural leader with inaugural award from State Tree Fruit Association

SUBMITTED BY LAUDAN ESPINOZA, WASHINGTON STATE MEDIA CONTACT

OLYMPIA - Sen. Brad Hawkins was recently named the 2017 Legislative Champion by the Washington State Tree Fruit Association for his work supporting the tree fruit industry across the state.

Hawkins represents the 12th Legislative District, which is renowned for its tree fruit production. He introduced legislation this past session to address challenges for growers presented by a 2015 court decision.

"Agriculture is a huge part

of the 12th District and state economy," said Hawkins. "I am honored to be recognized by the Tree Fruit Association for my work to ensure a strong and vibrant industry."

Hawkins' work includes bipartisan legislation aimed at improving compensation and settlement negotiations for the tree fruit industry.

"We need to ensure that workers and producers are able to resolve issues fairly," Hawkins added. "My bipartisan bill provided a way for the industry to fairly compensate workers and protect producers who are working in good faith. Although it did not become

law, it raised awareness of the issue that was hanging over the tree fruit industry and led to improved outcomes for all involved."

The State Tree Fruit Association presented the inaugural award at its annual luncheon. "This award recognizes Senator Hawkins' active leadership in support of the state's tree fruit producers," said WSTFA President Jon DeVaney. "Our members greatly appreciate the senator's understanding of and support for our industry's issues, and this is an opportunity to publicly thank him."

\$1 million in WAEF scholarships to be awarded this spring

SUBMITTED BY WASHINGTON APPLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

WENATCHEE - The Washington Apple Education Foundation will award \$1 million in scholarships to students raised in tree fruit industry communities in the spring of 2018. Recipients of these awards are pursuing two- and four-year college/university degrees and technical degrees at accredited vocational/technical colleges. Awards are open to graduating seniors and current college students.

All awards are generously funded by individuals and businesses with ties to Washington's tree fruit industry.

Who qualifies?

Students raised in families with ties to Washington's tree fruit industry are eligible to apply. Ties to the industry are created through immediate family member or personal employment in an apple, cherry or pear orchard or warehouse in Washington, immediate family ownership of an apple, cherry or pear orchard or warehouse in Washington or immediate

family employment in a company directly serving the apple, cherry or pear industry in Washington. Additionally, students with a desire to work for the tree fruit industry may also qualify.

How do you apply?

Students pursuing a two- or four-year degree at a college or university should be complete the WAEF Universal Scholarship Application. Completing this one form allows you to apply for all WAEF scholarships, except those identified under the WAEF Technical/Vocational Scholarship Application. WAEF Universal Scholarship Application

The WAEF Technical/Vocational Scholarship Application is for students pursuing a technical/vocational certificate or a two-year technical/vocational degree in one of the following fields: auto repair/mechanic, automotive technology, computer application, construction building and trades, diesel mechanic, electrical, electronics, HVAC, industrial systems technology, information technology, instrumentation, logistics control, machine programming, machine

technology, mechanized irrigation systems, network administration, project management, refrigeration, welding, or other technical agriculture related. WAEF Technical/Vocational Scholarship Application

Please refer to the qualifications for each application. Applicants that complete the incorrect application will be disqualified from consideration. If you have questions about which application is right for you, please contact the foundation office at (509) 663-7713 or scholarships@waef.org.

Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2018. In addition to completing the application form, letters of reference and transcripts are required. These, too, must be submitted by the deadline.

Need help?

For assistance, contact the WAEF office at (509) 663-7713 or scholarships@waef.org. Your questions are welcome.

You should also check out our scholarship tips. This list of tips reflects lessons learned reviewing hundreds of scholarship applications over the last 20 years. Scholarship Tips at www.waef.org/scholarships/

Local Farm Act feeds rural economics

BY CORA FOX, CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS

Where our food comes from matters - for our health, for the vitality of our communities, for our wallets, and for the environment. One of the Center for Rural Affairs' goals is to connect the local people who grow and make food with the local people who eat it.

We work to bring together farmers and consumers through community food systems and farm to school projects, providing workshops, webinars, and technical support. We have long supported local foods as an economic development tool in rural communities, working with community leaders to build healthy, sustainable, local food systems.

Recently, the Local Food and Regional Market Supply Act (The Local Farms Act) was introduced in both the Senate (S. 1947) and the House (H.R. 3941). Through an investment in programs and policies that spur economic development, the act prioritizes the development of new markets for farmers and expanded healthy food access for American families.

Findings from the Agricultural Census in 2007 and 2012 show that farmers who market food directly to consumers have a greater chance of remaining in business than similarly sized farms that market through traditional channels.

In 2015, more than 167,000 U.S. farms produced and sold food locally through food hubs and other

intermediaries, direct farmer-to-consumer marketing, or direct farm to retail. Those sales resulted in \$8.7 billion in revenue for local producers.

We stand with Congressional sponsors in calling for this critical investment in our food and farm future. The Local Farms Act should be included in the 2018 farm bill.

To contact Cora Fox, email CORAF@CFRA.ORG

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

Join WSU Extension for 2018 Winter Tree Fruit Programing in Central Washington

SUBMITTED BY TIANNA DUPONT, WASHINGTON STATE TREE FRUIT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

NCW - Tree fruit producers and industry professionals are invited to WSU Tree Fruit Extension Programs in Central Washington on January 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, and February 6. Co-sponsored by Northwest Cherries, Pear Bureau Northwest, NCW Fieldmen's Association, Chelan Future Farmers of America and the Okanogan Horticultural Association. These events provide the latest research based information on horticulture, pest and disease management. We hope you will join us to network and learn this winter. For agendas and additional information visit treefruit.wsu.edu/events. Pesticide update credits will be awarded for program attendance.

Cherry Institute
Friday, January 12, 2018
Yakima Convention Center
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sponsored by NW Cherries

Seasonal Timeline for Achieving Superior Cherry Fruit Size, Assessing Cherry Fruit Size Tools, Sweet Cherry Varieties, Gum Acacia, Cherry Viruses and more.

North Central Washington Stone Fruit Day
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
Wenatchee Convention Center
8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
8:15 a.m. registration
Co-Sponsored by WSU Extension and NW Cherries
Topics include: Record Crop, Record Challenges, Looking Back and Moving Forward; Managing for Bigger High Quality Fruit; Grower Experiences with Cherry Training Systems; Spotted Wing Drosophila; Cherry Virus Update; Cherry Powdery Mildew Management Questions and Answers; and more. <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/new-stone-fruit-day-2018/>

North Central Washington

Pear Day
Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Wenatchee Convention Center
8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
8:15 a.m. registration
Co-sponsored by WSU Extension and Pear Bureau Northwest
Topics include: Optimizing Pear Physiology, Handling Trees at Planting for Medium Density Demonstration, Novel Avenues for Increasing Pear Consumption, Farm Bill and Labor Issues Update, Tree Survey, Perennial Weed Control, Fire Blight, Conserving Natural Enemies in Pear Orchards: A Basis for Pear IPM, Choosing the Right Tools for Successful Pear IPM, Singing Psyllids, Attract-and-kill, and Landscape-wide tracking of Dispersal, and more. <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/new-pear-day-2018/>

North Central Washington Apple Day
Thursday, January 18, 2018
Wenatchee Convention Center
8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
8:15 a.m. registration
Topics include: Can Deficit Irrigation Be Used as a Tool to Improve Fruit Quality in Honeycrisp?, Adoption of Protective Netting in WA Apple Production, Bitter Pit Prediction Models, Woolly Apple Aphid, Codling Moth, Managing Fire Blight in Young Trees, Update on Apple Powdery Mildew Control, Factors Affecting Glyphosate Efficacy, and more. <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/new-apple-day-2018/>

Okanogan Horticultural Society Annual Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Omak Agriplex
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
8:30 a.m. registration
Co-sponsored by WSU Extension and North Central Washington Fieldmen's Association
Topics include: Fire Blight Common Questions and Answers, Cosmic Crisp™ Marketing and Frequently Asked Questions, Managing WA 38 for High Quality Fruit, BMPs for Managing Nitrogen

and Carbon Dynamics in Perennial Horticultural Crops, Pear Psylla: Everything you Wanted to know but were Afraid to Ask, Apple Leaf Curl Midge, Apple Maggot, and more. <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/okanogan-horticultural-meeting/>
No pre-registration is required. For agendas and event

information visit treefruit.wsu.edu.

Pesticide update credits will be awarded for program attendance.

Extension programs and employment are available without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local extension office.

SUBMITTED BY BILL BRAUCHLA, NORTHWEST WHOLESALE

Apple Hort. and Postharvest Research Review—
Wednesday, January 24, 2018 -
Pasco Holiday Inn Express

NW Omak Organic/Conventional Meeting—
Thursday, February 1, 2018 - Omak Agriplex

NW Royal City Organic/Conventional Meeting—
First week of February

Pear Research Review—
Thursday, February 15, 2018,
Wenatchee Confluence Tech. Center

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